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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/698,605	10/31/2003	John P. Franz	200308604-1	9858

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EXAMINER

EDWARDS, ANTHONY Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2835

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/698,605

Applicant(s)

FRANZ ET AL.

Examiner

Anthony Q. Edwards

Art Unit

2835

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 December 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 12-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-10, 12-19 and 21-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US2004/00129221 Hidaka et al. ("Hidaka" hereinafter).

Referring to claims 1 and 14, Hidaka discloses a locking mechanism (see Figs. 4 and 5) for coupling and uncoupling a removable component (400) coupleable to and from a computer device, comprising a first member (402) selectively positionable between secured and unsecured configurations of the removable component with respect to the computer device (see Figs 9-10), and a second member or engaging member (501) positionable between first and second configurations (see Figs. 18-20), wherein the first configuration extends the second member (501) through the first member (402) in the secured configuration to secure the first member.

Referring to claims 2 and 15, Hidaka discloses a locking mechanism as claimed, comprising a pivotable member (503) configured to actuate the second member (501) selectively between the first and second configurations, and wherein the pivotal movement of the pivotable member actuates the engaging member along a longitudinal axis of the engaging member (see Figs. 18-20).

Referring to claims 3 and 22, Hidaka discloses a locking mechanism as claimed, wherein the removable component is a hot-pluggable device. See Fig. 17, which shows components 400 individually removable for "hot-pluggable" usage.

Referring to claim 4, Hidaka discloses a locking mechanism as claimed, wherein the first member (402) comprises a lever pivotably coupled to the removable component. See paragraph 0055.

Referring to claim 5, Hidaka discloses a locking mechanism as claimed, wherein the pivotable member (503) is a knob (520) coupled to the removable component (i.e., via locking assembly 500). See Figs. 4 and 18.

Referring to claim 6-8, Hidaka discloses a locking mechanism as claimed, wherein the pivotable member (503) is configured to transition the removable component selectively between an operational (powered) configuration and a dormant (un-powered) configuration (see Figs. 18-20, wherein the locking mechanism is configured to set the removable component (400) in the dormant configuration during a transition between the secured and unsecured configurations. See Figs. 19 and 20 and the corresponding specification.

Referring to claim 9, Hidaka discloses a locking mechanism (see Figs. 4 and 5) for coupling and uncoupling a removable component (400) coupleable to and from a computer device (300), comprising a leveraging member (402) configured to at least partially disengage a removable component with respect to a computer device, an engaging member (501) selectively positionable in first and second positions such that the engaging member at least partially engages with the leveraging member in the first position, and a pivotable member (503) coupled to the engaging member such that pivotal movement of the pivotable member actuates the engaging member along a longitudinal axis of the engaging member. See Fig. 18 and paragraphs 0098-0106.

Referring to claim 10, Hidaka discloses a locking mechanism as claimed, wherein the pivotable member (503) is configured to transition at least one of the removable component (400) and computer device (300) between an operational configuration and a dormant configuration. See Figs. 18-20 and the corresponding specification.

Referring to claim 12, Hidaka discloses a locking mechanism as claimed, wherein the pivotable member (503) and the leveraging member (402) are coupled to the removable component (400), i.e., via the locking assembly 500 (see Figs. 4 and 18).

Referring to claim 13, Hidaka discloses a locking mechanism as claimed, wherein the engaging member (501) in the first position extends through the leveraging member (402). See Figs. 18-20.

Referring to claims 16-19, Hidaka discloses a locking mechanism as claimed. See paragraph 0004.

Referring to claim 21, Hidaka discloses a locking mechanism as claimed, wherein at least one of the first member (402) and the engaging member is coupled to the removable component. See Fig. 7.

Referring to claims 23-25, the method steps are necessitated by the device disclosed in Hidaka.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hidaka in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,728,099 to Tsang et al. Hidaka discloses the device as claimed, except for the removable component comprising a cooling device. Tsang et al. disclose a system having removable cooling components (see Figs. 3 and 4). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the device of Hidaka to include removable cooling devices, as taught by Tsang et al., since selectively removable cooling units are easier to repair and/or replace as needed.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 11 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the specific limitation of the pivotable member being electrically coupled to an indicator configured to indicate visually the status of at least one of the computer device and removable component between the operational and dormant configurations is not taught or suggested by the prior art references, and it would not have been obvious provide the same.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-25 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

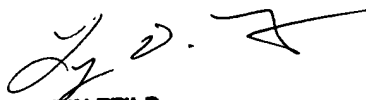
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anthony Q. Edwards whose telephone number is 571-272-2042. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30-3:00) First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn D. Feild can be reached on 571-272-2800, ext. 35. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

April 4, 2005
aqe


LYNN FEILD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800